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Summary record of the 64th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 25 June 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Abelian ..... (Armenia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 113: Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (*continued*)

Question of East Timor (*continued*)
(A/53/7/Add.14; A/C.5/53/63; A/C.5/53/L.76)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Assembly, by its decision 53/472 had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitment up to $35 million, from all sources of funds, for the initial requirements of the United Nations activities related to East Timor, pending further action by the Security Council and the submission of a revised budget by the Secretary-General. The Committee now had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of East Timor A/C.5/53/63 containing the revised proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) for the period from 5 May to 31 August 1999, which amounted to $52,531,100 gross, and the related report of ACABQ (A/53/7/Add.14).

2. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of ACABQ (A/53/7/Add.14), said that the Advisory Committee had concluded that the budget estimates had been prepared under conditions of uncertainty, which had made it difficult to provide accurate estimates. There were a number of instances where the costs estimated might prove to be higher than required. Conversely, costs in other areas might have been underestimated. The Advisory Committee had therefore not recommended any adjustment of the estimates. It expected, however, that in the implementation of the budget the Secretariat would take its views fully into account.

3. Voluntary contributions to the trust fund for UNAMET were currently estimated at $46.7 million. The nature and status of the contributions were set out in a table in the annex to the report. It was the view of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General would require maximum flexibility in the use of those funds and that he should continue to seek untied contributions. The question of the mode of financing and related appropriation and assessment was dealt with in paragraphs 15 to 18 of the report.

4. **Mr. Herawan** (Indonesia) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to the prompt implementation of the agreements of 5 May 1999 with a view to enabling the East Timorese to determine freely the future of East Timor through the popular consultation scheduled for 8 August 1999. Regrettably, that process was already behind schedule, especially with regard to the dissemination of information on the concept of special autonomy and the registration of voters.

5. While UNAMET could not in any way be considered a peacekeeping mission, his delegation was willing to be flexible regarding the mode of financing, provided that the Mission was conducted in conformity with the mandate set forth in the agreements and in Security Council resolution 1246 (1999).

6. **Ms. Aragon** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said it was vital that sufficient funds should be made available to the Secretary-General to enable him to discharge the responsibilities assigned to him in the agreements of 5 May 1999 and by the Security Council in its resolution 1246 (1999). Her delegation therefore supported the appropriation of the $52.5 million required for the implementation of the mandate of UNAMET for the period 5 May–31 August 1999, and urged the Committee to take action on the matter without further delay.

7. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) said that the activities of the United Nations in East Timor should be financed through a special account with a special scale of assessments.

8. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would suspend its formal meeting with a view to reaching agreement on a draft resolution.

The meeting was suspended at 10.15 a.m. and resumed at 1 p.m.

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.76

9. **The Chairman**, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.76, said that in the last line of paragraph 3, the words "financial rules, regulations," should be inserted after "in accordance with the", and the words "for such contributions" should be added after "General Assembly". It had also been proposed that the draft resolution should contain the following additional operative paragraph:

> "*Reiterates* that the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly;".

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.76, as orally revised, was adopted.*

11. **Mr. Künztle** (Germany), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, said that the Union wished to

reiterate its support for the efforts to bring peace to East Timor. It had warmly welcomed the signing of the agreements of 5 May 1999, which had represented a major step towards a settlement, and it had supported the adoption by the General Assembly of decision 53/472. The draft resolution just adopted by the Committee would further secure the functioning of the United Nations presence in East Timor by placing UNAMET on a sound financial footing, which was a prerequisite for the effective implementation of its mandate.

12. The European Union agreed with ACABQ, however, that the Secretariat should have specified in the revised proposed budget the mode of financing for the Mission, so that the requisite amount could have been appropriated and assessed. It was to be hoped that its failure to do so would not create a precedent. The Union also concurred with ACABQ that, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, the expenses of UNAMET were expenses of the Organization, which should be borne by the Member States as apportioned by the General Assembly.

13. **Ms. Goicochea Estenoz** (Cuba) expressed regret that the draft resolution did not deal with the issue of tied contributions.

14. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada) expressed satisfaction at the draft resolution's adoption by consensus and at the flexibility shown by delegations in the informal consultations.

15. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that his delegation wished to stress that voluntary contributions made in support of mandated activities of the United Nations should not be subject to conditions. It concurred with the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General should continue to seek untied contributions.

16. **Mr. Park Hae-yun** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation strongly supported the efforts to bring peace to East Timor and welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution.

17. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico), reiterated that activities approved by the Security Council should be financed through a special account with a special scale of assessments.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.